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Ten NAVAIR projects receive funding to solve avionics problems

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. — After reviewing 31 proposals, NAVAIR's Air Combat Electronics Program Office (PMA-209) recently awarded funding to 10 projects through the Avionics Component Improvement Program (AvCIP).

AvCIP, which is funded by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), provides money to address current naval avionics readiness problems, impending obsolescence issues and systems that are no longer reliable or are high-cost drivers for the fleet.

"Platforms across NAVAIR face obsolescence issues," said Candace "Candy" Chesser, program manager for PMA-209. "The projects selected to use AvCIP resources enable our acquisition and program managers to address, with near-term funds, current mission degraders and sustainment cost drivers. AvCIP supports the Commander's focus areas of improving current readiness and increasing speed of capability to the fleet."

Each year program offices across NAVAIR are invited to submit proposals. PMA-209's AvCIP team collects and evaluates the initiatives, and a selection board of avionics experts vote for the projects to be funded. Proposals are chosen based upon cost, extent of benefits, urgency, criticality and ability to successfully execute.

OPNAV has programmed \$9.5 million in support of FY17's winning projects. The funds will benefit several naval aviation platforms/programs, including:

- PMA-208's E/F Band obsolescence and DSQ-50A Scorer obsolescence;
- PMA-242's HARM Guided Missile;
- PMA-265's EA-18G Fiber Optic Harness;
- PMA-273's TH-57 TACAN obsolescence;
- PMA-207's RC-26D Surveillance Radar;
- PMA-205's Portable Air Anti-Submarine Warfare;
- PMA-272's APR-39 Depot Level Repair Reduction;
- PMA/W-170's GPS Non-Volatile Memory Correction;
- PMA-299's FLIR Laser Reliability improvement.

The projects are expected to save the fleet more than \$267 million in life-cycle costs, and several projects will aid in obsolescence issues to enable continued full mission capability.

The solicitation for fiscal 2018 AvCIP proposals will begin in December. For more information about the program, call 301-995-7080.